IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 6, 18, 20, and 22 without prejudice. Please amend the pending Claims as follows:

1. (Previously canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The coating ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 5, wherein the medical device is a stent.

3. (Currently amended) The coating ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 5, wherein the drug is a light-sensitive drug or a UV-radiation sensitive drug.

4. (Currently amended) The coating ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 3, wherein the light-sensitive drug comprises ~~actymicin~~ actinomycin D, paclitaxel, or vincristine.

5. (Currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

(a) a [[drug-]] polymer layer containing a drug;

~~(b) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the coating; and~~

~~(c)~~ (b) a topcoat layer disposed ~~upon~~ over the drug-polymer layer; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the topcoat layer.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The coating ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim [[6]] 5, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound is ~~further~~ additionally ~~dispersed within~~ included in the drug-polymer layer.

8. (Currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

(a) a polymer layer containing a drug;

(b) a topcoat layer disposed over the drug-polymer layer; and

(c) ~~The coating as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising~~ a film-forming ~~polymer~~ layer disposed ~~on~~ over the topcoat layer, wherein ~~the~~ a light- and/or UV-protective compound is ~~dispersed~~ included in the film-forming ~~polymer~~ layer.

9. (Currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

(a) a [[drug-]] polymer layer containing a drug; and

(b) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the coating, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20 ~~is dispersed within the drug-polymer layer~~.

10. (Currently amended) [[A]] The coating ~~for a medical device~~ of Claim 9, ~~the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating~~ additionally comprising:

~~(a) a drug-polymer layer containing a drug;~~

~~(b)~~ a primer polymer layer deposited between a surface of the medical device and the drug-polymer layer~~; and~~

~~(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the coating~~.

11. (Currently amended) The coating ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 5, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

12. (Previously canceled)

13. (Previously canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The ~~method as claimed in~~ coating of Claim [[5]] 9, wherein the medical device is a stent.

15. (Currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, the method comprising forming a coating onto a medical device, wherein the coating comprises a [[drug-]] polymer layer containing a drug, a topcoat layer disposed over the drug-polymer layer, and a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the topcoat layer ~~substance incorporated into the coating~~.

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 15, wherein the drug is a light-sensitive drug or a UV-radiation sensitive drug.

17. (Currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 16, wherein the light-sensitive drug comprises ~~actymicin~~ actinomycin D, paclitaxel, or vincristine.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, the method comprising forming a coating on a medical device, wherein the coating comprises a polymer layer containing a drug, a topcoat layer disposed over the drug-polymer layer, ~~The method as claimed in Claim 18, further comprising~~ a film-forming ~~polymer~~ layer disposed ~~upon~~ over the topcoat layer, ~~wherein the~~ and a light- and/or UV-protective ~~substance is dispersed~~ compound included in the film-forming layer ~~polymer~~.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim [[20]] 15, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective ~~substance~~ compound is ~~further~~ additionally ~~dispersed within~~ included in the drug-polymer layer.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 15, ~~further~~ additionally comprising a primer polymer layer deposited between a surface of the medical device and the drug-polymer layer.

24. (Currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 15, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective ~~substance~~ compound comprises carbon black or gold.

Please enter the following new Claims 25-38:

25. (New) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and a polymer of the topcoat layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

26. (New) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

(a) a polymer;

(b) a drug included in the polymer; and

(c) carbon black included in the coating.

27. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and a polymer of the topcoat layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

28. (New) A method for fabricating a medical article, the method comprising forming a coating onto a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, wherein the coating comprises:

(a) a polymer

(b) a drug; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the medical device is a stent.

30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

31. (New) The coating of Claim 9, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

32. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the medical device is a stent.

33. (New) A coating for a medical article, comprising:

(a) a polymer

(b) a drug; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

34. (New) The coating of Claim 33, wherein the medical device is a stent.

35. (New) The coating of Claim 33, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

35. (New) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the medical device is a stent.

36. (New) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

37. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the medical device is a stent.

38. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.